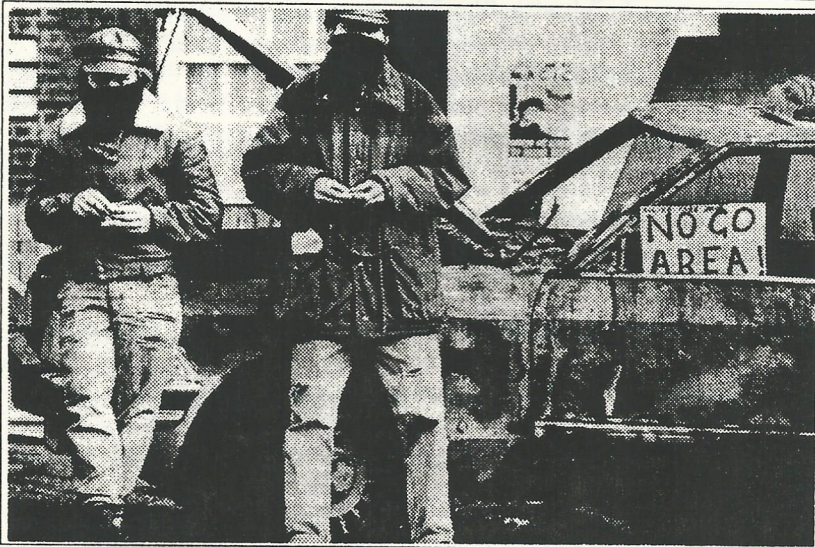


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Squatters keep the cops at bay

London Squatters Resist

The last six months or so have seen a slew of mindless evictions of squatters in London England. Numerous homeless have been kicked out of their homes onto the streets simply because they've had the nerve to take the problem of getting somewhere to live into their own hands, and out of the bureaucratic clutches of the local councils. Squatters have occupied many unused buildings and turned them into housing. The council's mentality seems to be 'get rid of the squatters, who are the basic problem, and then figure out what we're going to do with the buildings'. After an eviction, the toilets and sinks are smashed up, then the house is left empty for at

least six months or more. This is what local Labour Party councils see as a solution to the housing crisis!

If that sounds crazy to you, listen to this: One of the councils spent over 2 million dollars on steel doors for unused flats to prevent homeless people from living there.

Needless to say, the squatters aren't taking this lying down. In Lambeth, a district of London, evictions have been resisted using direct action such as barricading doors and windows, attacking cops and housing officers with buckets of piss, fireworks, paintbombs and such. When the cops return with reinforcements and smash

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PUBLIC MEETING

Bioregionalism: The Key to Our Survival?

On May 19th, the Toronto Free University is sponsoring an introductory discussion of bioregionalism at 7:30 PM, in the 519 Church St. Community Centre, with local activists explaining what it's all about. Everyone is welcome.

Bioregionalism is a growing ecology movement whose goals are inseparable from those of the anarchist movement. As Kirkpatrick Sale explains in his book *Dwellers in the Land: the Bioregional Vision* (Sierra Club Books, San Francisco), Planet Earth is on the verge of global ecocide and survival means not only checking the abuses of the industrial system, but replacing industrial culture with one rooted in the natural world, in harmony with natural systems and rhythms, constrained by natural limits and capacities, and developed according to the natural configurations of the Earth and its inherent life forms. Bioregionalism stresses:

- encouraging greater awareness of the ecology (inter-relationship of all life forms) in one's own area.
- Creating new ways of living in harmony with natural systems.
- Replacing industrial culture with

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London Squatters

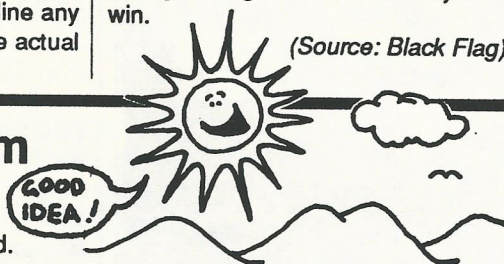
(cont. from pg 1)

in the doors, they find the buildings empty, creating a great deal of frustration and tension amongst the cops. Apparently alot of those responsible for evictions are scared of doing so now as they come under heavy fire from the evictims.

Alot of support for the squatters has been gained from both tenants and council workers, with the local union saying that it will discipline any member who is involved in the actual eviction of squatters.

Squatting as an alternative solution for the housing crisis makes sense. Here in Canada, though we have such a large housing problem, there are still laws forbidding it. But by organizing together to break this law and take back housing for those who need it, we can withstand any legal assault on the right to housing through mobilization. Examples have been shown in West Germany and elsewhere, where our collective power is enough to fight back effectively and win.

(Source: Black Flag)



Bioregionalism

(cont. from pg 1)

one rooted in the natural world.

- creating a sense of place; encouraging population redistribution into units small enough to respect natural systems and practise small-scale agriculture.

Although some think that these goals could be achieved through a system of state government more enlightened than ours, an examination of the way power works in any state system will soon refute this. Power is a cancer which, once called into existence, must continue to expand by devouring surrounding organisms — thus, ever-increasing power is concentrated into fewer and fewer hands. To stop it we must create a social system in which nobody has coercive power over anyone else, and only anarchists are prepared to do this. Anarchists and bioregionalists share a vision of society broken down into small units, federated but self-governing through true participatory democracy.

Environmental Frankensteins

According to Utne Reader #27, environmental restoration is becoming trendy — people are trying to re-create complex ecosystems that have been ruined by urban development or farming. Advocates say this channels humans' delight in manipulating their environment into positive channels. Of course, not all such projects are done out of a feeling for the sanctity of life; for instance, one man restored a number of streams in his state so he could continue shooting ducks. With patenting of new forms of plant and animal life becoming commonplace (see last issue), the possibilities seem endless for environmental Frankensteins to create their own monstrosities in place of the natural ecological order that is being irretrievably destroyed.

GREECE

ANARCHISTS ON TRIAL

Anarchist Comrades, Clearchos Smirneos, Christoforas Marinos, Makis Boukouvalas and Evangelhia Voghiatze, were arrested on the 1st of October in Athens Greece and are still in prison today. The charges against them are "participation in an armed group", "illegal possession of weapons", "theft" and "falsification of public documents".

On the same day, Anarchist Michalis Prekas was shot by police and mortally wounded. He died later that day at hospital

The arrests and murder were part of a course of repressive action by the Greek state against anarchists. The state is introducing progressively harsher legislation to make all social upheavals illegal

Those arrested were always on the front line of struggles against the State's projects, particularly Smirneos who has already done time for his participation in struggles against the destruction of a park in Athens and his involvement at strikes and demos.

The Greek States crackdown on Anarchists can be traced to NATO demands that it be able to carry out "anti terrorist" work and a need to draw peoples attention away from real social problems. The greek state is using falsified evidence to get guilty verdicts on the four to claim a great success against terrorism.

The Greek anarchist movement has held demonstrations, sit ins at a university and a rallies outside the prison. One of the Main groups involved in this is the Anarchist Coil if you would like more info from them write to us and we will give you their address. (Source: Anarchist Coil)

SOVIETS PUNISH DISSIDENT

Leonid Gromov is a Russian pacifist responsible for arson attacks against a Soviet automobile factory which manufactures trucks for Afghanistan and Nicaragua.

In 1984, when he was 21, Leonid realized that the day-to-day production at that plant was part of the chain which enabled such wars to take place. So he made the decision to hinder production at the plant by himself.

Leonid spent seven months breaking into the offices where the technical documentation provided by the military was kept, and burning everything in sight. As a tool-and-die maker, Gromov could pick any lock. One after another, he set fire to the party committee office, the trade union office, the office of foreign patents, and the french lathes for making small parts. Locks were found broken and unopenable in the mornings. Even when they replaced them, they would soon mysteriously be broken again. Rumors flew that an entire organization was operating.

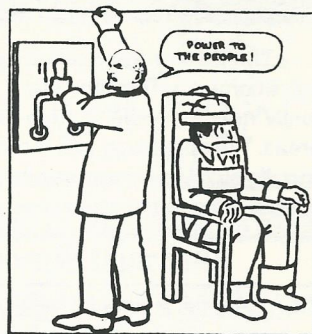
Finally the Minister of Internal Affairs ordered that the arsonists be caught. Hidden television cameras were installed at the factory and Leonid was finally found. All in all, due to careful planning, there were no injuries nor deaths in any of the fires.

In 1985, Leonid was tried and pronounced "insane" by psychiatric 'experts'. There were no witnesses at the trial, in fact Leonid wasn't even there. He was submitted for compulsory treatment at a Special Psychiatric hospital. No longer the lively, emotional youth, Leonid now looks lethargic and listless, the result of medications designed to cure him of caring for people.

Leonid will be 24 this year. If you'd like to send protest letters supporting him, the address to complain is pretty simple: Mikhail Gorbachev, Kremlin, Moscow, USSR.

Although I personally would make a distinction between a war of Soviet aggression such as that in Afghanistan and a war of self defense such as that in Nicaragua, he, as a pacifist, didn't. I think he deserves support as someone who dared to take action against the Soviet military machine and in support of human rights.

(On Gogol Boulevard)



LOCAL

Strip-Searches Next?

Women postal workers are not allowed to carry purses to their work stations because Canada Post management is accusing them of stealing mail and drinking on the job. They say that purses allow workers to conceal these items. Instead, they are demanding that women keep their belongings in lockers away from their station. These, however, are unsafe, as break-ins have occurred, especially by nosy management.

The women refuse to accept this, saying that it is unfair as they need the purses when they are menstruating to carry napkins; Canada Post says they can report to male guards during their periods for permission to carry them!

Many women in Metro have been suspended for disobeying this rule. Postal workers have been wearing clothes with lots of pockets and the mail has been slowed down in protest. There is a possibility of picket lines so keep your eyes open and get out there to support them if needed!

NATIONAL

Canada Bombs Hawaii

Later this month, the Canadian Navy will use the Hawaiian Island of Kaho'olawe as a target practice range.

Kaho'olawe has 544 identified archaeological sites. It is one of the few remaining links to pre-European Hawaii, and is a registered Historic site of the U.S.A.

In 1986, 38 national and regional organizations asked our Federal government to stop the devastation of Kaho'olawe. Twenty-four prominent Canadians wrote an joint request to Prime Minister Mulroney to stop the destruction, but he did not even acknowledge receipt of the letter (what a surprise!).

The Federal Government may well fail to promote Canada as a 'really Pacific' nation, very largely because of its insensitivity to the feelings and contempt for the values of the Pacific peoples. The preservation of Kaho'olawe therefore assumes an immense symbolic significance, next only to the moral and ethical questions involved.

(Mother Earth College)

The **Ecomedia Bulletin** is a bi-weekly publication of the Ecomedia Toronto office. The Ecomedia group currently needs people to help distribute the bulletin in new areas. We also could use more help in writing and production. If you'd like to give us a hand, we meet every 2 weeks. Please write to find out meeting times and location.

Anarchist Survival Gathering

The gathering is coming! And we are going to need **tons** of housing for people coming in from out of town (about 400!). If you have **any** space, including bare floor space, please call 536-2514 and tell us how many you can take. That's also the number to call if you want to help in the organizing or if you just want info.

SONGS OF ANARCHISM AND REVOLUTION

Songs of Anarchism and Revolution, a tape of traditional songs from the international anarchist movement, is now available in North America from Reality Now Publishers. This tape is a wonderful collection of historical 'anthems' from anarchists, including 'A Las Barricadas' from the Spanish Civil War, 'Hey, Hey, Down With the Police' from pre-1917 Russia, and 'L'Internationale'. All proceeds from this printing will be used for the Toronto Anarchist Gathering July 1-4 1988. Available for \$6 plus \$1 for postage from RN Publishers, P.O. Box 6326 Stn A Toronto Ont., M5W 1P7, Canada



We'd also like to start an announcements column. Please send in announcements about upcoming events two weeks ahead of time.

Our circulation is at 1000 now, but we definitely need help both financially and labour-wise to increase this, so please consider getting involved.

Ecomedia is also on the radio. We're now heard once a week on the 'Word of Mouth' show, every Tuesday between 7 and 8 PM on CKLN 88.1 FM. If you live in or around the Toronto area, tune in.

Subscriptions to Ecomedia can be had for \$10/year; subscribers will receive a package every 2 issues (that's every 4 weeks) to save mailing costs.

MEDIA WATCH

Practically every major media has been covering the incident in Moncton where Mila Mulroney got hurt in a scuffle with angry workers. Most are shocked and appalled that anyone would dare to strike her, and they are unanimously sympathetic to her and her husband. While it's never nice when someone gets hurt, it's important to put such an incident in perspective for it to be truly understood.

The majority of demonstrators were CN railway workers who were angry at the closure of repair shops in Moncton. Their closure will mean the loss of hundreds of jobs, while the work for those shops will be brought out this way to Ontario. When you consider the effect the loss of work will have on those people and their families, brought about as a result of the decisions of a nationalized industry, it's easy to see that a picket sign (or an elbow, they're still not sure which it was) in the gut for Mila is a small incident compared to the longer term problems these workers will face.

In another seemingly unconnected incident here in Toronto, a man was arrested May 10 for "going berserk" in a welfare office. He apparently was demanding attention and when the cops arrived to take him off he fought back, injuring one. For those of us familiar with the welfare office this reaction seems pretty natural.

With the constant abuse heaped on people in the form of poverty, those who are responsible for much of it, who find themselves administering its continuation, or who arrogantly display extreme wealth in face of this, shouldn't be so surprised when we break the boundaries of politeness and hit back.